

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th March 1899.

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Nil.		Nil.	
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		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.		CALCUTTA.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000	11th March, 1899.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	16th " "	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	10th " "	
4	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,800	10th " "	
5	"Prativasi" ...	Ditto ...	.....	13th " "	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	10th " "	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	11th " "	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	20th Feb. 1899.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Chandrika" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	10th and 13th to 16th March 1899.	
2	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	13th, 14th and 16th March 1899.	
3	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	200	13th to 16th March 1899.	
HINDI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Calcutta ...	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	13th March, 1899.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	6,500	13th " "	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	14th " "	
2	"Mefta-hur-zafar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	10th " "	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Calcutta ...	320	10th " "	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	330	10th " "	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Calcutta ...	.....	
BENGALI.		BURDWAN DIVISION.			
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangabandhu" ...	Chandernagore ...	.....	10th March, 1899.	
2	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572	8th " "	
3	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	14th " "	
4	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400	12th " "	
5	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	10th " "	
6	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475	8th " "	
BENGALI.		PRESIDENCY DIVISION.			
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Berhampore, Murshidabad.	655	8th " "	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	10th " "	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS—concluded.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....	This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Sambad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasambad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
	HINDI.	PATNA DIVISION.			
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	14th March, 1899.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	9th " "	
	BENGALI.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	15th " "	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Kangal" ...	Cooch Behar ...	.....	15th " "	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180	.....
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....	
	BENGALI.	DACCA DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755	26th Feb. and 13th March, 1899.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	6th March, 1899.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	12th " "	
3	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	
4	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	11th " "	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	13th " "	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Commilla ...	450		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120	8th " "	
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340		

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th March complains of the recrudescence of dacoity in Aola and other villages in the Dacca district. River thefts have become pretty frequent of late in Patharghata, Kuchemorha, Saidpur, and other villages on the bank of the Dhaleswari near Vikrampur. The boatmen and passengers who are robbed do not like to undergo the trouble and expense of complaining to the police, knowing, as they do, that the police is powerless to trace and put down river thefts. In fact, the Dacca police is so inefficient that it has failed to detect any of the numerous thefts and dacoities which have been committed within the last few months. The police has failed to trace even the thefts which were committed on the boats of the Magistrate and the Subdivisional Officer.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 12th, 1899.

2. The *Prativasi* of the 13th March says that the Khulna police lately ordered the dead body of a young Hindu widow of Senhati, who had apparently committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree, to be burnt without making any enquiry into the real cause of her death. It is doubtful whether the police has the power to order the disposal of a dead body which is found under such suspicious circumstances. What, if the woman was murdered and then suspended from a tree? It is hoped the Magistrate will hold an enquiry into this matter. Various complaints have of late been heard against the Khulna police.

PRATIVASI,
March 13th, 1899.

3. A correspondent of the same paper complains that a gang of 20 to 25 Parsis, male and female, are committing great oppression on the shopkeepers and residents of Saistaganj on the Assam-Bengal Railway. On the 4th March last, one of the gang took some *khir* from a milkman, and instead of paying its price abused the poor man and threatened to kill him with a dagger. On the same day some of the gang robbed a shopkeeper of three and-a-half *seers* of *ghee* on the pretence of purchasing one *seer*. One day the shopkeepers of the place did not open their shops for fear of these men. They do not also miss any opportunity of picking pockets. On the 5th March they robbed Babu Sarat Chandra Majumdar of Bejura of Rs. 10 and a man of Chitla of some rupees by picking their pockets. Their ostensible means of livelihood is hawking for sale knives, scissors, &c., but they are really living by robbery. The police take no notice of the complaints which are made against them.

PRATIVASI.

The gang are proceeding towards Cachar, and the authorities ought to keep a sharp eye on their movements.

4. The *Basumati* of the 16th March writes as follows:—

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1899.

How village chaukidars do their duty. Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers, it is true, nowadays keep a sharp eye on village chaukidars. But the villagers have derived no benefit from this. Village chaukidars think that their sole duty now is to present themselves in a body every week in uniform before the thana people and before the Court Sub-Inspector, and to carry out the private orders of these puny Nawabs. Let there be a theft or dacoity or highway robbery in a village, the chaukidars will take no notice of the occurrence. Not unoften they are themselves found implicated in the crimes.

The villagers have, therefore, begun to think that chaukidars are maintained simply to report births and deaths at the thana and to collect the chaukidari tax. They do not know that keeping watch and ward at night is the principal duty of a chaukidar, because they never see a chaukidar discharging this duty.

Though chaukidars and dafadars cannot commit much oppression on the higher classes, they treat the lower classes in an extremely high-handed manner and commit much oppression upon them. The police are perfectly aware of all this. But they do not interfere so long as chaukidars render them every private service they require of them. The chaukidars are nothing but the slaves of the police from the Inspector down to the commonest constable.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1899.

5. The same paper has learnt from its Habiganj correspondent that some Musalmans of Keshabpur, Arijpur, and Baraipara, within the jurisdiction of the Madhavpur thana, in the Habiganj subdivision of the Sylhet district, attempted at noon of the 1st February last to carry off a young Musalman girl, named Sonamani, daughter of Hafija Bibi. On the 3rd February a complaint was made at the Madhavpur thana, and a Musalman jamadar only took down the mother's deposition, but did not take any further steps in the matter. The Chief Commissioner ought to direct a proper enquiry to be made into the case.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 6th, 1899

6. The *Charu Mihir* of the 6th March says that Mr. Roe, Magistrate of Mymensingh, having in February last issued an order prohibiting all except pleaders and mukhtars and their muharrirs from entering the offices, with the evident intention of putting down touters, some mukhtars have given certificates of muharrirship to Ajim Chaprasi and some other well-known touters. The Court Sub-Inspector, who has been charged with the preparation of a list of touters, should therefore be particularly careful in drawing up his list. He will have to discriminate with care between *bona fide* muharrirs and touters who, under false certificates of muharrirship, carry on the obnoxious trade.

HITAVADI,
March 10th, 1899.

7. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th March writes as follows:—
The case of Lieutenant Lethbridge. Lieutenant Lethbridge, son of Sir Roper Lethbridge and Cantonment Magistrate of Rawalpindi, was accused of borrowing money from one Shaikh Fazal Elahi and was suspended by the Government. It is now said that the District Judge of Rawalpindi has twice examined Lieutenant Lethbridge with closed doors. Why is this so? Sardar Gurudayal Singh and Raja Chitpal Singh were both publicly tried. Why has a different course been adopted in the case of Lieutenant Lethbridge? Why this distinction between Native and European? Such invidious distinction is extremely reprehensible, and should by all means be discouraged.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
March 13th, 1899.

8. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 13th March complains against Babu Kamala Kanta Gupta, Munsif of Raiganj. Kamala Kanta Gupta, Munsif of Raiganj, in the Faridpur district. The Munsif comes to court late, and is very dilatory. He holds court till a late hour and keeps the amla and the pleaders waiting up to 9 or 10 P.M. He often employs the amla of his Court on his own private business, and generally works them very hard.

BHARAT MITRA,
March 13th, 1899.

9. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 13th March writes:—
The case of Lieutenant Lethbridge. Lieutenant Lethbridge, Cantonment Magistrate of Rawalpindi, was accused of borrowing money from Shaikh Fazal Elahi and was therefore suspended. An investigation into the case is being carried on, but in a very peculiar manner. It is heard that the District Judge twice took the deposition of the complainant in a private room into which no one, not even a vakil or a mukhtar, was admitted. It is not understood why this case is being investigated with closed doors. Is it that a case against a European cannot be publicly tried? The cases of Raja Chitpal Singh and Sardar Gurudayal Singh were conducted in a public manner. Why this closing of the doors in the case of Lieutenant Lethbridge?

(d)—Education.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
Feb. 26th, 1899.

10. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* of the 26th February writes as follows:—
Mr. Reuther's visit to Faridpur. On the 15th February it was announced that Mr. Reuther, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Circle, was coming to inspect the Faridpur School. Babu Jagachchandra Sarkar, Head Master of the Faridpur School, received the following instructions:—

(1) A milch cow, with calf, yielding at least two *seers* of milk should be kept at the Tepakhola Ghat.

(2) Teachers of schools wishing to give *dali* or presents to the Inspector should see him with their presents at the ghat on the 16th February.

(3) School-boys should be detained till 5 o'clock.

On the 16th February the Inspector did not put in his appearance, and the boys were detained till a late hour for nothing. The Inspector sent an intimation that he would pay his visit to the school at 7 A. M. the next day. The boys were put to the trouble of coming to school at that early hour, but Mr. Reuther did not arrive. The boys were dismissed at 11 A. M., when the Inspector arrived and inspected the empty school.

The first, the second and the third masters of the Faridpur School gave presents to the Inspector, and so did Babu Nalini Kanta Sen, B. L., a teacher of the Isan Institution. Nalini-Babu's *dali* was the best, and no doubt excited the Inspector's admiration. It is said that the second master of the Faridpur School had to borrow in order to please the Inspector. We hope that the Inspector has been satisfied with his admirers who have given him presents, and that they will fare better than the Head Master of the Narayanganj School, who declined to lend him Rs. 50 and had to see a book of his removed from the list of text-books.

To tell the truth, Mr. Reuther received a right royal welcome at Faridpur. Not to speak of Inspectors of Schools, even the Lieutenant-Governor or the Director of Public Instruction never met with such a reception at Faridpur. Mr. Reuther ordered the schools to be closed for four days in honour of his visit.

11. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 10th March takes exception to the manner in which examiners are selected by the Syndicate of the Calcutta University. The practice generally followed by the Calcutta University in regard to the selection of examiners is to select those who are in the Education Department and engaged in the work of teaching. It is a regret, however, that the practice is not strictly and faithfully followed. The practice, again, of selecting examiners from outside the Education Department to set question papers is highly objectionable, for none but those who possess educational experience can be expected to properly test the knowledge of examinees. In the Entrance Examination, Professors of Colleges are appointed to examine the answer papers in English Literature and Grammar. This is not as it should be. Head-masters of schools should be appointed to examine answer papers in this subject. College Professors are sure to place a high ideal before themselves, whereas Head-masters, who know the qualifications of an average school-boy, will not expect from the examinees anything far beyond their capacity. The practice of appointing young inexperienced College Professors as examiners to the exclusion of experienced Head-masters is no doubt a practice of doubtful expediency. Head-masters like Babu Bholanath Pal are not appointed examiners, whereas M. A.'s fresh from College are selected as examiners, no matter whether they teach boys or not. Among the examiners selected this year are some who have nothing to do with the education of boys. Mrs. Som, Revd. B. J. Chew, and Mr. W. Frank do not belong to the teaching staff of any school or college; Mr. Rasul is a young Musalman barrister; Mr. Murphy who has been appointed an examiner in English for the F. A. Examination is not known to teach any class higher than the Entrance class; Revd. Lamb is not known to teach English in any school or college; Babu Indu Bhusan Brahmachari has this year been elected to the Roy Chand Prem Chand Scholarship, but he does not possess any educational experience; Mr. Fazlal Huq is qualifying himself for the High Court bar. Of the examiners for the B. A. Examination, Revd. Macdonald has long since given up teaching; Mr. C. R. Wilson is not a Professor of English, and Babus Nrisingha Chandra Mukharji and Rajendra Chandra Sastri do not belong to the Education Department.

In short, the selection of examiners for the ensuing examinations has not given satisfaction to the public. It is hoped that in future the selections will be more judicious and satisfactory. Teachers and Professors should henceforward be appointed examiners in subjects which they themselves teach, and the public will have no objection even if the Syndicate has to go out of Bengal for this purpose.

12. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th March says that the paper in Bengali set at the last Entrance Examination was not a very good one. It is difficult to understand why the

HITAVADI,
March 10th, 1899.

SANJIVANI,
March 11th, 1899.

candidates who come to be examined in Bengali are asked to give their answers in English. In the second question, for instance, the candidates have been asked to write in English the substance of a few lines of difficult verse quoted from their text-book. A candidate who knows the meaning of the lines, but has not a good knowledge of English, will fail to answer this question. It is for the examiner in English and not for the examiner in Bengali to test a candidate's knowledge of English. The fourth question in this paper, requiring the candidates to translate a Bengali passage into English, should have more properly been set in the English paper, in which twenty-six marks are set apart for such translation. Translation from Sanskrit into English in the Sanskrit papers are, no doubt, necessary to test the candidate's knowledge of Sanskrit; but a similar course is not at all necessary for testing a Bengali candidate's knowledge of Bengali. How many boys, it may be enquired, understood the following and could translate it into English:—

“ধ্বনি যেন হর্বিকম্পিত হইয়া বেড়াইতে লাগিল; যেন পবনে সেই ধ্বনি বহিল; বৃক্ষপত্রে
মর্দিত হইতে লাগিল; সাগর নাদে যেন মন্দীভূত হইতে লাগিল”?

BASUMATI,
March 18th, 1899.

13. A correspondent of the *Basumati* of the 16th March says that Babu Bankim Chandra Majumdar, B.A., Sub-Inspector of Schools, Pataspur Circle, in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district, has brought a criminal charge against the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, and the Head-master of Bibhisanpur Aided Middle-Vernacular School on the ground that they used to pay some of the teachers less than what was sanctioned by the District Board. If a strict enquiry were made into the disbursements of the middle schools in the mufassal, few would escape a similar charge. It is the Government which is to blame for fixing higher salaries for middle school teachers than can be actually paid. Most middle schools are in straitened circumstances, and it is no wonder that they cannot always pay high salaries like those which are fixed by the Government. Why, again, did not Babu Bankim Chandra institute proceedings against the authorities of the Bibhisanpur School before now? And considering how very general is the practice of paying teachers less than their recorded salaries, why do not other Sub-Inspectors bring similar charges against the schools under their jurisdiction?

Will Bankim Babu say if most middle schools within his jurisdiction do not make the following allegations against him?

- (1) That, when he goes on tours of inspection he takes with him the Inspecting Pandit and makes him serve as his cook and *chaprasi*.
- (2) That, though he regularly draws his travelling allowances, he makes the authorities of the schools he inspects pay his feeding and travelling expenses.

Did not Babu Brajendra Kumar Guha, Assistant Inspector, Burdwan Circle, write to every school in Pataspur to ascertain the truth of the second allegation against Bankim Babu? Many teachers and *gurus* complained against this Sub-Inspector without effect, and it is hoped that the Director of Public Instruction and the Chairman of the District Board will take measures against him.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,
March 6th, 1899.

14. The *Charu Mihir* of the 6th March says that as complaints of water scarcity are being already received from various places in the Mymensingh district, no time should be lost in making arrangements for supply of water in the mufassal. The Vice-Chairman of the District Board and the District Engineer should ascertain what are the places where people are in need of water, and should supply their want.

SANSODHINI,
March 8th, 1899.

15. The *Sansodhini* of the 8th March requests the Chairman of the Chittagong Municipality to remove all huts thatched with straw from the crowded quarters in which most houses have tin or bamboo roofs. If a straw hut is burnt down, the owner's loss is small; but it is otherwise if a

bamboo or tin-house is destroyed by fire. It is hoped that the Chairman will rigorously enforce the rule relating to straw huts.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th March writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
March 10th, 1899.

Water-supply and conservancy
in Sitakunda.

As regards water-supply in Sitakunda, we have repeatedly said that the best course to adopt will be to carry water from the Mandakini by means of pipes to reservoirs to be constructed for its reception. This will no doubt cost about two or three thousand rupees, but it is better to spend two or three thousand rupees to secure a permanent means of supplying fresh water than to spend three or four hundred rupees every year on water-supply of doubtful efficacy. The authorities also are of our opinion and are even said to have made estimates for the construction of such water-works as we are suggesting. No effect, however, has up to this time been given to the scheme of the authorities, and the pilgrims to Sitakunda are still in want of good water.

The conservancy arrangements in Sitakunda are also defective. Filth has been allowed to accumulate in one and the same place, and a veritable cesspool has been created, which threatens to be a standing danger to the sanitation of the locality. It is not we alone who say this: hear the Health Officer of Sitakunda:—

“The common practice in Sitakunda and in many of the adjoining towns is to dispose of the sewage upon the premises. In the little yard or the garden attached to each house, a hole is dug in the porous soil into which all the filthy liquids and the night-soil are discharged. The tanks are not unfrequently within 12 feet of the cesspool and in some places even closer. The contents of the filth-hole or cesspool percolate through the surrounding soil and mingle with the water below. Hence, when the volume of water is diminished, the tanks are replenished to some extent by the disgusting mixture. This polluted water is consumed from year to year by the poor people and the numerous pilgrims. I am sure the cesspools are certainly the cause of the horrible pollution I have put in paragraph 2 of letter No. 1 addressed to the Magistrate. The custom of burying the night-soil and other refuse and waste products under the ground should certainly be condemned if the health of the people be considered much above the money. In my opinion the cesspools should be opened, their contents removed, and these should be buried near the seashore. To carry out the proposal it is necessary that a road should be constructed and permanent sweepers appointed to carry the night-soil to the seashore by the bullock-cart, which would certainly be very expensive; but, if the health of the people be the prime object of the Health Officer, I cannot help asking the Government to consider the matter I lay before you favourably.

DEVENDRA NATH HAZRA,
Health Officer, Sitakunda.”

17. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th March complains against the District

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 12th, 1899.

A complaint against the Dacca
District Board.

Board of Dacca. Tenders were invited by the Board for the construction of three bridges on the Manikganj Road. Rs. 19,774 was sanctioned by the Board, and three contractors, Babu Kunja Bihari Mukharji, Govinda Sardar, and Hossain Bux, submitted tenders, the first offering to construct the bridges at Rs. 20,000, and the last two at Rs. 1,000 less. Kunja Babu's tender was accepted, and the tenders of the other two were rejected. Kunja Babu seems to be in the good graces of the majority of the members, and he enjoys a monopoly of the Board's contracts: no other contractor coming forward to compete with him. On account of this favouritism, the Board has every year to suffer a loss of several thousand rupees.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

18. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 10th March complains of the

HITAVADI,
March 10th, 1899.

A railway complaint.

inconvenience which female passengers experience in getting tickets at the Howrah station. There are no separate arrangements for issuing tickets to them and such of them as have no male companions are hard put to it in getting tickets. It is to be hoped

that the railway authorities will make separate arrangements for issuing tickets to female passengers and appoint female booking clerks to serve them.

PRATIVASI,
March 13th, 1899

19. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 13th March complains that the two carriages which are attached to the No. 6 down train on the Eastern Bengal State Railway

Some railway grievances.

for conveying milkmen from stations below Barrackpore to Calcutta do not contain sufficient accommodation for all the milkmen who use that train, and some milkmen have almost every day to travel in other carriages along with ordinary passengers, much to the inconvenience of the latter. One carriage more for milkmen will remove all inconvenience.

A waiting room for third-class passengers and two *pucka* privies—one for male and one for female passengers—at the Naihati station are absolutely needed. The existing privies being at some distance from the station, respectable female passengers cannot use them.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1899.

20. A correspondent of the *Basumati* of the 16th March complains of the bad condition of the road from the Mirerbag's

Bad condition of a road in the Dacca district.

ferry ghât on the Buri Ganga in Dacca to the bank of the Dhaleswari. The road has not been repaired for a long time. The District Engineer's attention was more than once drawn to it, but without effect.

(h)—General.

HITAVADI,
March 10th, 1899.

21. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th March has the following:—

Oppression of natives by Europeans.

In reply to a question asked the other day in Parliament by Lord Stanley, the Earl of Onslow said that instances of oppression of natives by European soldiers in India were few and far between; one such instance having occurred some ten years ago, and after the lapse of that long period, a couple more of such instances having taken place only recently. The Earl added that such cases being very rare and the law of the country being quite adequate for the purpose of punishing the culprits, there was, in the Commander-in-Chief's opinion, no necessity of taking special measures to put a stop to such incidents.

Lord Onslow's reply has fairly taken us by surprise. Oppression of natives by Europeans has become a matter of common complaint in India. In fact, the impression is gradually gaining ground in the public mind that in a case between a native and a European, it is impossible for the former to prove victorious. The conduct of a class of Europeans also has gone far to shake people's respect for the English nation. Not a week passes but there is a quarrel between a native and a European, and the inhuman conduct of some Europeans does not fail to excite contempt in a man's mind. These low creatures, as soon as they set foot upon Indian soil, pride themselves upon their nationality and look upon the natives as low and inferior beings, who may be ill-treated with impunity. The Government has tried its best to remove this wrong impression from the mind of these low creatures, but so far without success. There is a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, but unfortunately, there is no society for the prevention of oppression committed by Europeans upon natives. Why is this so? Why are Europeans growing more and more oppressive? Let the Government carefully consider this question.

About twenty-two years ago, a European of the name of Fuller kicked his *syce* to death. That was the first instance of a native dying from the bursting of an enlarged spleen. Since then there have been bursting of spleens without number; there have been countless deaths of natives at the hands of Europeans either by accident or by mistake. The number of such deaths is still on the increase, and it behoves the authorities to devise some means to put a stop to them.

We cannot say how long we shall have to witness such incidents. Not a week passes without many such cases coming to our notice. First, we hear the version of one party. Then comes the version of the other party. Then, thanks to a European Judge and a European jury, we witness the travesty of a trial. In most cases, we are surprised at the lightness and leniency of the

punishment, and it is only in rare instances that such cases are tried by an impartial Judge and the majesty of the law is vindicated. But impartial Judges like Sir Francis Maclean are few and far between.

It is only when a native is killed by a European that the incident is taken notice of by the authorities, but nothing is heard beyond the faint cry which is raised in the native press when a native is assaulted by a European, but survives the injuries he receives.

There are several cases of this nature still pending. The case of Mr. Powell is one. Mr. Powell was helping his daughter to her horse, when his whip fell from his hand. A native who was passing by was requested to pick it up, but he could not understand Mr. Powell and failed to pick up the whip. This so much enraged Mr. Powell that he at once fell to thrashing the poor native with his whip. What if Mr. Powell's guilt is proved in this case? Will the Court be able to convince him that a native is not bound to pick up a European's whip for him?

A few more cases of this nature have this week come to our notice. Two of these need be mentioned. Some days ago, a European arrived at the Raniganj station and ordered the coachman of a *dak* coach belonging to Messrs. Shaw and Company and reserved by a native official of rank to drive him to his destination. The coachman having replied that the carriage was engaged, the European began to mercilessly thrash him, and when the gentleman who had reserved the carriage argued with him, the European thrashed him so severely that he fainted away. Seeing things taking this turn, the European made himself scarce and the police could not find him out.

Take another case. A European missionary of Bankura was driving a bicycle, when a student of the fourth class of the Bankura School hailed him with a "Good afternoon." Upon this the missionary came down from his bicycle, entered into the school compound and slapped the boy. The Headmaster took the boy and a few other boys, who had witnessed the assault, to the District Magistrate, and was advised to prosecute the missionary.

It goes without saying that if an attempt is not made in right earnest to put a stop to such occurrences, the people will become more and more discontented, and this growing discontent will bode no good either to the ruler or to the ruled.

We feel the necessity of a legislative enactment passed with the view of bringing it home to the mind of the European residents in India, that the natives are human beings like them, made of flesh and blood and entitled to the right of living peacefully and in comfort. To tell the truth, the Government should take steps to prevent cruelty to natives by Europeans in the same way in which it has taken steps to prevent cruelty to animals by heartless men.

An Indian is not the slave of a European and is not bound to *salaam* him or attend to his orders. To ask one to do some service as a matter of favour or in return for some remuneration is one thing, and to order him unceremoniously to do some service is a very different thing. All Europeans in India should be made to see the distinction between these two forms of action.

22. The same paper has the following:—

How the plague officers are conducting themselves.

The Government has this year adopted very lenient and satisfactory measures to prevent the spread of the plague, and so there will be no fear or panic among the people. It is a regret, however, that the plague officers are not always conducting themselves as they should. Here is an instance in point: There was a plague case in a hut in ward No. 2. The plague officers were ordered to disinfect the hut. There is a brick building next to this hut, which bears the same number, and the plague officers wanted to enter into this house in spite of the protest of the occupier. A member of the Vigilance Committee, who accompanied the plague officers, pointed out their mistake, and the hut was disinfected.

Another instance: A man who was suffering from fever and not plague died at No. 22-2, Chandranath Chatterji's Lane, Bhawanipur. The plague officers went there to disinfect the house, when the male members were not at home. They broke open the doors to the great alarm of the female inmates,

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destroyed a few articles and removed the tiles from the roof of the room in which the patient had died. Such high-handed conduct has already created a panic in the public mind and they are in fear of oppression. To tell the truth, the public seem to have no confidence in the plague officers, and they fear that strict measures will be taken as soon as the Lieutenant-Governor goes to Darjeeling. The plague officers should therefore act cautiously and carefully, and should give the public no cause for fear or panic.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAHA,
March 12th, 1899.

The vernacular press in the
Bengal Administration Report.

23. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 12th March is sorry that for the last two or three years no mention of any vernacular newspapers has been made in the Bengal Administration Report. Such mention, however, is calculated to give encouragement to the native press in doing its duties better and with greater uprightness, and the absence of all such mention may convey the discouraging idea that there is not a single vernacular newspaper in Bengal which is worth notice. Does Sir John Woodburn mean that? It is hoped that His Honour will see his way to revert to the old practice in future reports.

BHARAT MITRA,
March 13th, 1899.

24. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 13th March writes that passengers from Calcutta are detained for ten days in the observation camp at Chausa, where many fall ill through

Detention at Chausa.

fear and anxiety. A Marwari, for instance, who was detained in this camp, was attacked with fever through fear. He wired to Calcutta to his uncle, who went to him. On his arrival his nephew was released, but he himself was forced into the camp.

PRATIVASI,
March 13th, 1899.

25. A correspondent of the *Prativasi* of the 13th March complains that the letter-box in Kusida, under the jurisdiction of the Tulsihata post-office in the Malda district, is

A postal complaint.

opened and cleared only once a week instead of thrice as required. The residents of the village have, therefore, to post all their important letters at Tulsihata. The villagers receive their Saturday's newspapers not on Monday but usually on Wednesday, and sometimes even on Friday. The peon was more than once fined for neglect of duty, but does not appear to have mended his ways.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

DACCA PRAKASH,
March 12th, 1899.

26. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 12th March writes as follows:—

Section 50 of the Bengal Tenancy
Act.

According to the Bengal Tenancy Act, the rent of a raiyat cannot be enhanced if it is proved that he has been paying a fixed rent for twenty years without a break. There are lands which have been in the undisturbed possession of a raiyat and his lawful heirs since the time of the permanent settlement, and they are paying rent at the rate fixed at that time. It is almost impossible for the zamindar to prove that the rent of a raiyat has been recently fixed, whereas a raiyat, by merely stating that his rent has not been enhanced within twenty years, shifts the burden of proof on to the shoulders of the zamindar. The zamindar is not expected to be personally acquainted with all his tenants, or to know when a raiyat's rent was last enhanced. In these and other matters, he has to depend entirely on his *naibs* and *gomastas*, who can easily mislead him.

The object of section 50 of the Bengal Tenancy Act seems to be to give the raiyat an opportunity to participate in the advantages conferred on the zamindar by that measure. But the Government ought to have taken into its consideration the enormous responsibilities which the zamindar has to bear—responsibilities with which the raiyat is in no way concerned. The zamindar has to submit to the cost and trouble of collecting rents, in dribblets, from hundreds of raiyats. He has to deposit the land revenue punctually at the Collectorate, no matter whether he has been able to collect rents from his raiyats or not. He has often to run the risk of bringing himself within the purview of the "sunset law." The raiyat, however, has no such responsibility to bear. With diligence and labour, he can make the soil yield a bumper crop. If the zamindar proves oppressive, he can remove to the estate of another zamindar. He can even give up agriculture and take to some other

occupation more profitable. To tell the truth, a zamindar is in most respects worse placed than a raiyat.

At the time of making the permanent settlement the Government granted to the zamindars one anna for each rupee of land revenue. The Bengal Tenancy Act has prohibited the taking of *abwabs*. The zamindar has therefore to discharge a duty of serious responsibility, for a very small remuneration. The Tenancy Act has also made realisation of arrears of revenue a difficult affair. It will be doing the zamindar bare justice to repeal section 50 of that Act. But if the Government is unwilling to repeal that section, it should at least make the raiyat's holding liable, in the same way as the zamindar's estate is liable, on the raiyat's failure to pay rent in due time. The zamindar's estate is put up for sale if he fails to deposit the land revenue in due time. The raiyats holding should in the same way be put up for sale on his failure to pay rent in due time.

Section 50 of the Tenancy Act seems to be a section of doubtful expediency. According to this section, the zamindar can go on enhancing the rent of a raiyat whose rent has been once enhanced, but he cannot enhance the rent of a raiyat whose rent has been never enhanced. Such a provision as this is certainly unjust and unreasonable.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

27. Mr. Buckland said at Khulna, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 6th March, that though many zamindars deserved praise for the manner in which they fed the poor, they were not very attentive to their duty of giving medical help to their raiyats. Zamindars all over the country should profit by this advice. It is good advice for them all. Malarious fever rages over the entire Province, and in many places malaria-stricken people get no medical help, and die in large numbers. Poor raiyats will, therefore, greatly benefit if the zamindars provide medical advice for them free of cost, as they have been asked by Mr. Buckland to do.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 6th, 1899.

28. The *Hitavadi* of the 10th March writes as follows:—
According to a section of the Indian Penal Code, anyone proved guilty of exciting animosity or hatred of one class against another can be sentenced to imprisonment for two years, or to fine, or to both. We do not know whether this section is intended to be applicable to natives alone; but if it is to be applicable to all, it should be applied at once to the Revd. J. A. Sharrock, a missionary of Trichinopoly. This Mr. Sharrock has written an article in the *Indian Church Review* foully abusing the Hindu and his religion. Here is a passage from his article:—

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"That the Hindus as a race are probably the most immoral, treacherous, and cunning people on the face of this wicked earth will generally be admitted."

To a jaundiced eye all things are yellow, and we may be advised to ignore this missionary's abuse and ridicule it to death. But in our opinion, the Government ought to cure this missionary's disease by the application of a drastic remedy.

29. The *Bangavasi* of the 11th March has the following on the Lady Dufferin movement:—

It cannot be gainsaid that the British Government is actuated by a philanthropic motive in establishing hospitals all over the country. In these hospitals hundreds and thousands of poor and diseased persons are being well treated and carefully nursed. Who, again, is not grateful to the Government for the *zanana* hospitals? It is, of course, true that so long as Hinduism lives, no respectable Hindu lady will come to a hospital. However poor and helpless she may be, a respectable Hindu lady thinks it a great social and religious degradation to come to a hospital, or to use hospital medicine. This is why Lady Dufferin's object in establishing *zanana* hospitals has not been fulfilled. Many people think that this object will in due time be fulfilled; but that time will not, in our opinion, soon come. The establishment of these *zanana* hospitals, however, is a noble and philanthropic

BANGAVASI,
March 11th, 1899.

work, and the sympathy of the Viceroy and his lady with the object of the Dufferin Fund is therefore undoubtedly praiseworthy.

SANJIVANI,
March 11th, 1899.

30. The *Sanjivani* of the 11th March says that at the last annual meeting in connection with the Lady Dufferin Fund, Maulvi Muhammad Yousuf Khan Bahadur informed his audience that Lady Curzon was making the acquaintance of zanana ladies and was even entering into friendship with them. The Khan Bahadur made this statement in the presence of the Viceroy and Lady Curzon. If the wife of the Viceroy freely mixes with educated and respectable native ladies, Anglo-Indian ladies in general will not dare to regard native women with contempt. Lord and Lady Curzon's sympathy with the native population is very gratifying.

SANJIVANI.

31. The same paper says that the members of the Calcutta University Institute were highly gratified with the kind treatment they received at Belvedere from Sir John Woodburn on the 4th March last. Civility shown by the officials serves only to deepen the attachment of the subject people to their rulers. Sir John Woodburn is becoming more popular every day by his kind treatment of all with whom he comes into contact.

SANJIVANI.

32. The same paper says that if the country is to derive any real benefit from the Lady Dufferin Fund, that is to say, if the fund is to be of any real use to the *pardanishin* women of this country, those entrusted with its management must carry out the suggestions which were made by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. The Maharaja was of opinion that more good would be done by training up female doctors and establishing dispensaries in the mufassal than by founding large hospitals in Calcutta. Small hospitals, said the Maharaja, might be established in connection with such dispensaries in the mufassal towns and villages, where ladies of the middle class and even rich families would not hesitate to come out for treatment. If the funds available are not adequate for carrying out such an expensive scheme, provision can at least be made for the employment of trained midwives and sick nurses at all the chief dispensaries in the mufassal. This, so far as it will go, will be a great medical help to the women of the country. In Calcutta there is no need of public hospitals for zanana ladies, because zanana ladies in Calcutta can very easily get the help of lady doctors, midwives, and nurses at their own houses, and because such ladies are never likely to come to a public hospital for treatment. It is gratifying to see His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal saying that he would try to carry out the Maharaja's suggestions.

BHARAT MITRA,
March 13th, 1899.

33. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 13th March writes as follows:—
There is a Christian missionary named J. A. Sharrock at Trichinopoly. He writes in the *Indian Church Review* of Calcutta that the Hindus are the most immoral, treacherous, and cunning people on the face of this wicked earth. Such remarks as these, no doubt, bespeak the purity of this missionary's heart. The Governor of Madras ought to make him Lord Bishop of Madras or to send him to jail under the criminal law. It is laid down in the Penal Code that, whoever excites the hatred or animosity of one class against another shall be punished with two years' imprisonment or with fine or with both. If a European missionary is amenable to this law, Mr. Sharrock should be sent to jail. If he is not sent to jail, he should be made a Lord Bishop.

BASUMATI,
March 16th, 1899.

34. The *Basumati* of the 16th March has the following:—
Mr. G. W. Steevens is a well-known writer. Few living Englishmen can describe battles, &c., so well as he. His accounts of the battles of Omdurman and Atbara call up before the reader living pictures of those engagements—so vivid and lucid are his descriptions and so appropriate to his subject is his language. Lately Mr. Steevens was in Calcutta for a week, during which he was able to gain a thorough insight into the Bengali character. On his return to his country he has written about the Bengalis, characterising them as a nation of slaves, possessed of both the virtues and the vices of slaves.

Their virtues, according to him, are—"industry, frugality, a quick imitative intelligence and amazing verbal cleverness;" and their vices—"dishonesty, suspiciousness, lack of initiative, cowardice, ingratitude, utter incapacity for any sort of chivalry."

We know that we are a nation of slaves, and our own poet has sung—
 'গোলামের জাতি, শিখেছি গোলামী' (a nation of slaves, we have learnt the slave's art); so we see nothing new in our abuse by Mr. Steevens, and we do not take it as our abuse if we are credited with the virtues and charged with the vices of slaves. But Mr. Steevens belongs to the ruling race and is therefore possessed of manliness. How could he, then, after having accepted and enjoyed the hospitality of slaves for seven days, find it in his heart to abuse them? It is very, very long since the Bengalis, the nation of slaves, have been bearing on their bodies the marks of bites and scratches given in such monkey-language. They have grown callous to such bites and scratches. Since Lord Macaulay they are very many that have lived in Bengal, lived upon the Bengali's money, and then bit and scratched the Bengali in this manner. We are not sorry for this. But it would be well for us, it would serve our purpose in future, if our schoolboys bore all this in mind.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 18th March 1899.

